

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 7609

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YO, US, UR
SUBJ: ROMANIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS: WP MANEUVERS
REF: STATE 308512

1. I ASKED YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR DODIK DECEMBER 29 WHETHER HE HAD HEARD ANYTHING NEW ABOUT ROMANIAN WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE THEIR POLICY ON WARSAW PACT MANEUVERS GIVEN STATEMENT MADE IN WASHINGTON BY DEPUTY FOREIGN SECRETARY MOJSOV (REFTEL PARA 6). DODIK SAID HE HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE COMAN EARLIER IN DECEMBER BEFORE COMAN LEFT FOR WP DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING IN SOFIA AND WITH PARTY SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANDREI BEFORE LATTER WENT TO CHINA MID-DECEMBER. COMAN SAID SOVIETS HAD PRESSURED ROMANIANS TO EXPAND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN MANEUVERS BUT ROMANIANS HAD REFUSED. ANDREI MENTIONED THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN ROMANIAN POLICY ON MANEUVERS (THEREBY ECHOING STATEMENTS REPORTED EARLIER BY OTHER ROMANIAN OFFICIALS).

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO LIKELY SOURCE OF MOJSOV'S ASSERTION THAT ROMANIANS HAD AGREED TO EXPAND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN MANEUVERS, DODIK SAID HE ASSUMED MOJSOV MUST HAVE BASED IT ON EARLIER INFORMATION. SPECIFICALLY A MEMBER OF CEAUSESCU'S PARTY, WHOM HE DID NOT IDENTIFY, DURING SEPTEMBER OFFICIAL VISIT TOLD YUGOSLAVS THAT ROMANIANS WERE PREPARED TO
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INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN MANEUVERS. CEAUSESCU HIMSELF, HOWEVER, SAID NOTHING ALONG THIS LINE TO TITO. DODIK HIMSELF, IN LIGHT OF COMAN AND ANDREI DENIALS, NOW BELIEVES ROMANIANS HAVE NOT RPT NOT CHANGED THEIR APPROACH.
COMMENT: IN ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER EVIDENCE TO CONTRARY, WE SHARE DODIK'S VIEW. ANY REVERSE ON MANEUVERS QUESTION WOULD INDEED

BE A MAJOR CONCESSION TO SOVIETS.
BARNES

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